



United States Military Academy Band  
West Point, New York 10996



## Storm King Brass

The Storm King Brass is comprised of musicians in the United States Military Academy Band. Founded in 2003, the ensemble presents a diverse repertoire, from Renaissance to modern works, to its audiences. Similar to the other chamber ensembles at West Point, the group performs for audiences throughout the region, as well as at official military functions. Not only does each member serve as an active-duty military musician in the Army, each is a strong representation of the quality of musician in the United States Military Academy Band.

**SERGEANT MAJOR RICK GERARD - TUBA** was appointed to the position of Band Sergeant Major in September of 2002. Originally from Los Gatos, California, he performed on tuba with the United States Military Academy Band from 1973-1976. He later received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education from San Jose State University in San Jose, California, and performed as principal tuba with the San Jose Symphony.

Sergeant Major Gerard returned to active duty and the Military Academy Band in July of 1981. From 1981 to 1987 he performed with the concert and marching bands, the Highlands Brass Quintet, the Heritage Brass Quintet, and the West Point Tuba/Euphonium Quartet. From 1988 to 1992, he served as Operations Noncommissioned Officer. In 1993, he became the band's Administrative Noncommissioned Officer and in 1995, assumed additional duties as support staff group leader. Since 1981, Sergeant Major Gerard has served as the band's primary announcer with the Concert Band and the Field Music Group.

Sergeant Major Gerard's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters.

**SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MARTY TYCE - TROMBONE** is from Rock Springs, Wyoming. He became a member of the USMA Band in 1989 after receiving his bachelor of arts degree in music performance from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. Marty has studied with Mr. Joseph Alessi, principal trombonist on the New York Philharmonic and is currently studying with Mr. Matt Ingman, in New York City. He completed a master's degree in counseling from Long Island University, C.W. Post, in 1996. Additionally, Marty is currently an adjunct faculty member at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, directing the brass and jazz ensembles.

**STAFF SERGEANT ERIC MILLER - TRUMPET** is a native of Sioux City, Iowa and earned his Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Northern Iowa. He continued his musical studies at Indiana University prior to coming to the United States Military Academy Band. While at Indiana, he held the position of Associate Instructor as a graduate student. Eric's interest in a variety of genres has allowed him to perform in a wide array of ensembles. They include the American Wind Symphony, Cedar Rapids Symphony, Siouxland Jazz Orchestra, Bloomington Camerata, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, Theatre Cedar Rapids, Silver Strings Quartet and the Brass-Section chamber ensemble. In addition, he has performed throughout the United States and Europe, including the Montreux Jazz Festival (Switzerland), the North Sea Jazz Festival (Holland) and a tour of Hungary.

**STAFF SERGEANT GINO VILLARREAL - TRUMPET** is from Rio Grande City, Texas and joined the Hellcats in November of 2002. He earned his Bachelor of Music in trumpet performance from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Gino has performed with various ensembles, including the Waco Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Wind Symphony, East Texas Symphony and Symphony of South East Texas. He also performed at the Tanglewood Music Festival in 1988. Gino has studied with Tom Booth, assistant principal of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Raul Sosa Ornelas at Lamar University and Barry Hooper at Baylor University.

**STAFF SERGEANT ERIC KUPER - HORN** was born and raised near Buffalo, New York. He studied horn with Timothy Schwartz and Lowell Shaw and performed regularly with local community and professional ensembles. In 1996, SSG Kuper began studies at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he earned both a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degree in horn performance. While attending Michigan he performed the world premier of *Shindig for Horn and Wind Ensemble* by Daniel Godfrey in 2001. His teachers there were Bryan Kennedy and Soren Hermansson. When not performing, SSG Kuper teaches privately and has been audition judge and horn section coach of various youth ensembles. In 2002 he was the All-State Horn Coach at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp. In addition to the Concert Band, SSG Kuper is also a member of the West Point Woodwind Quintet.